



Agricultural Kitchen Cabinet Meeting Notes March 16, 2012

Participants

Jeff Houts: FCS Financial

David Drennan: MO Dairy Assoc.

Robert Brundage: Newman, Comley & Ruth, PC

Chris Boeckmann: Lincoln University Buzbee Research Farm Manager, contract turkey and cattle farmer

Nate Moore: MO Egg Council, Rose Acre Farms

Bill Jackson: Agri Services of Brunswick

Steve Taylor: MO Ag

Paul Crabtree: Tri-State Water Resources Coalition, SWMO Irrigation District, crop producer from Barton Co.

Steve Meredith: Dean Lincoln University College of Agriculture and Natural Science

Phil Howerton: pork producer in Howard Co., MASBDA Board Member

Brent Sandidge: pork producer in Saline Co. and row crop

Tom Coudron: MO Farmers' Union

Mark White: MO Corn Growers' Association, Environmental Resource Coalition

J.P. Dunn: MO Soybean Assoc.

Leslie Holloway: MO Farm Bureau

Richard Fordyce: Soil and Water Districts Commission Chairman, row crop and cattle in Harrison Co.

Brent Hayden: Regional Counsel for Cattlemen's Association

Survey and Discussion

Question 1: Does the department provide adequate technical and compliance assistance to complement agricultural regulatory programs?

Steve T.: Need to have more meeting like the ones they had recently with Steve Feeler

Bill: renewal of their air permit was a frustrating process with overly complicated hoops to jump through; has empathy for department because the air program staff didn't know more that his company; a permit that should have taken a week took a year

Question 2: What is your area of greatest concern on air pollution related impacts to agriculture?

Leslie: said PM10 because see PM10 regulation coming from the feds

Richard: would have said PM10 but EPA said they would not regulate dust

Brent S: said odor, it does not matter what you do it's not enough

Brent H.: EPA Region 7 doesn't even know what is going to happen; it matters more what EPA HQ wants; if the cost of air was as much as the cost of water, regulation would be difficult

Soil and Water Discussion

Richard: Soil and Water Conservation Districts Commission's (SWCDC) goal is to get 60% of funds into landowners' hands

Question 3: The Soil and Water Conservation Program works in every county putting \$20+ million dollars on the ground statewide in conservation practices through the cost share program. On a scale from 1-10, how familiar are you with this program?

No comments

Question 4: On a scale from 1-10, does the Soil and Water Program do an adequate job of showcasing and promoting their conservation opportunities, efforts and successes?

Dave: southern part of the state is searching for information on Soil and Water programs; DNR has not come to their meetings; NRCS staff does not tell certain producers about grant applications; do not have publications for Soil and Water districts to hand out

Richard: SWCDC are in a transitional period of getting counties that did not previously receive money used to applying; need to retrain district supervisors

Paul: his county is always out of money; how does allocation work (Colleen answered); they are getting used to the new allocation scheme

Steve: should have equipment to showcase around the State of Missouri

Bill: how does SWCDC look at Corps soil projects in the MO River (Richard answered: SWCDC is opposed to adding soil to the river for shallow water habitat; what use is spending sales tax to save soils when tax money is going into failed Corps projects that add soil to the river)

Brent S.: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pushing habitat projects on the Corps

Steve: nutrients in Mississippi River is causing hypoxia and nutrients in the water is need for habitat; can't have it both ways

Energy Discussion

Question 5: How important are state energy related programs that support renewable energy and energy efficiency within agriculture?

Dave: who were the 5 energy aggregators (Llona answered: actually only 4, Butterfly Energy Works, MO Business Development, MU Extension and Kaysinger)

Paul: ARRA application was too long so they didn't fill it out

DGLS Discussion

Question 6: How familiar are you with the services that the Division of Geology and Land Survey provides?

Need to get information out better

Water Resources Center Discussion

Question 7: Which of the following Water Resources Center initiatives is the most important?

J.P.: any more information on the underwater river in bootheel

Richard: does DNR work with rural water districts on a scheduled basis or must they contact DNR for assistance as needed

Paul: comparison of census of agricultural sector regarding acres of irrigated ground to reported water usage indicates only 10-20% are reporting; poultry processing draws down water table

Kitchen Cabinet Priorities

Jeff: diversity of agriculture; communication, stability and environment are important; open communication allow agricultural producers to plan and manage risk and sustainability; make stakeholders aware of what is going on

Dave: dairy permitting; MO Dairy Growth Council are working to expand and retain dairy industry in MO, which is attractive because of (1) corn input from the Midwest, (2) regulation in California and (3) lack of water in California

Robert: fees for CAFOs because of new rulemaking requiring state and NPDES permit and construction permit; discrepancy in the time to review different permits; should have separate fee meeting by sector

Steve: lawsuit by EPA on gulf hypoxia; need to make something happen on nutrient management this year; will send us information on Ohio nutrient trading system (Richard: EPA could work with DNR on rule development)

Nate: consistency between inspections/inspectors of his four 1A CAFOs; EPA inspectors ask more questions than DNR inspector know to ask (Brent S.: inspectors are good at technical assistance too; Phil: nice to have inspectors call first)

Chris: what industry can do to help themselves, e.g. SWCD; water quality v. water quantity

Paul: Corps reservoirs/groundwater, drilling wells, dam permits; statewide water quantity planning

Steve: water quality and quantity; nutrients; odor and neighbors: proactive training to minimize particulate matter

Phil: charge complaints a fee per call

Brent S. energy efficiency projects and renewables; do research but not spend too much money implementing until proven; deep pit hog and cattle buildings; life cycle of animal waste to crops

Tom: flooding in SE MO; appreciate the Corps help

Mark: stream and lake nutrient criteria-impact on profitability; proactive and engage stakeholders in nutrient reduction task force to develop a MO solution

J.P.: CAFO reporting rule; concerned about animal rights activists knowing where CAFOs are through reporting; would like to do a demonstration project on the environmental damage from unconfined hogs; streamline air permitting for soy products; Renewable Fuels Standard 2-API lobbied EPA to cap renewable fuel standard, which would stagnate the biodiesel industry

Leslie: stakeholders are important to help with backup for proposals; development of CAFO permitting regulation is a great process; tried stakeholder process for stream classification but lawsuit provides an opportunity for state to come up with its own plan; department should convey to Coalition for the Environment that filing lawsuits is not the way to accomplish their goals, by compromise they can at least get some of what they seek; science and data is important and should be explained to combat "bad" regulations (Chesapeake Bay TMDL)

Richard: supports poultry; lessen burden and provide additional assistance; sustainability is valued globally

Brent H.: be advocate to tell EPA HQ that enough is enough